

Protection Law for Optical Cables in Broadcasting and Telecommunications



AI Overview

Optical cables in broadcasting and telecommunications are protected through a combination of national laws, international agreements, and industry best practices designed to prevent damage, sabotage, and service disruption.

International Legal Framework

Under international law, submarine and transoceanic cables are recognized as critical infrastructure. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides a general framework for the protection of undersea cables, granting states the right to regulate activities that may harm these cables in their territorial waters and exclusive economic zones. However, international law has been criticized for inadequate enforcement against non-state actors and lacks specific provisions for emerging threats, prompting calls for reform and enhanced cooperation among states . The International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) works globally to promote best practices, resilience, and environmental considerations for submarine cables. It collaborates with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) through initiatives like the International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience, which brings together governments, industry, and academia to share knowledge and improve cable protection without creating new regulatory mandates .

National Legislation and Measures

Countries have implemented specific laws and regulations to protect optical cables:

United States: The Undersea Cable Control Act (2023) restricts foreign access to cable technologies and establishes penalties for damaging cables. The U.S. also designates cable protection zones, restricts anchoring near cables, and maintains a Cable Security Fleet to assist with repairs and safeguard national security interests . The FCC has implemented a cable outage reporting system to monitor operational status and coordinate respon...

Article Content

FCC updates subsea cable regulations; repeals 98 “outdated”

The new rules address potential vulnerabilities of subsea cables to foreign adversaries, recognizing their critical role in global internet traffic and financial transactions.

Handbook Optical fibres, cables and systems

ITU-T has been active in the standardization of optical communications technology and the techniques for its optimal application within networks from the infancy of this industry. However, it is not always

Subsea Telecommunications Cables as Critical Infrastructure

75 Executive Summary This report is concerned with what it means in policy and practice when States designate or qualify subsea telecommunications cables as critical infrastructure. It aims to provide

About Submarine Telecommunications Cables

Cable Protection Zones as Sanctuaries Zones that are created to protect submarine cables could act as marine sanctuaries, thus improving biodiversity and fish stocks

Submarine Cables: Key Principles and International Law of the Sea

In line with its first objective, the current research intends to analyze the fundamental principles and instruments of international law on laying and protecting submarine cables.

Protecting Underseas Cables

On August 16, 2024 the Congressional Study Group on Foreign Relations and National Security convened virtually to discuss threats to underseas telecommunications cables and strategies

Submarine Cables Protection and Regulations

It consults existing knowledge on international law on cables and analyzes specific principles and provisions on laying repair and maintenance of submarine cables

SUBSEa CABLES

Subsea cables are therefore critical for the EU and protecting them from physical and cyber-attacks is strategically important. Modern subsea cables use optical fibre technology to transmit

Submarine Cables: The Handbook of Law and Policy

Submarine fiber optic cables are critical communications infrastructure for states around the world. They are laid on the seabed, are often no bigger than a garden

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ITU iLibrary | Optical Fibres, Cables and Systems

ITU-T handbooks provide information on topics in telecommunications such as operational aspects, network planning, quality of service, implementation guidelines, outside plant protection against

May 2026: New Standards Released for Telecom and

The month of May 2026 brings a wave of significant updates in the field of telecommunications and audio/video engineering, with the publication of four

The protection of submarine cables in Southeast Asia: The security

Southeast Asia's digital economy is estimated to reach \$1 trillion by 2030. 1 A key component of this digital economy are the multiple submarine fibre optic cables (submarine cables)

Publications

A report prepared in collaboration with UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme), which is designed to provide an objective, factual description of the submarine cable industry and the

Protection of Undersea Telecommunication Cables: Issues for Congress

Recent attacks on undersea infrastructure, including the Nord Stream pipelines, has heightened concerns for cables, and spurred calls for increased protection of undersea telecommunication

Safeguarding Subsea Cables: Protecting Cyber

Subsea fiber-optic cables, a critical information and telecommunications technology (ICT) infrastructure carrying more than 95

International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)

International Law and Cable Protection The ICPC continues to advocate for government policies that support submarine cable protection and

International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)

Founded in 1958, the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) is the world's leading organisation promoting submarine cable protection and resilience. The

Cutting the Cord: The Legal Regime Protecting Undersea Cables

While existing treaties do offer some legal protections for cables, a camp of international lawyers contends that cables become legitimate objects of attack in war time. In practice, the lack of

Legal Considerations on the Protection of Subsea Cables in the ...

Abstract—The present paper concerns the protection of submarine infrastructures, i.e. submarine cables. After giving an overview over the applicable legal framework, the paper addresses problems

R.A. 7925

(j) No single franchise shall authorize an entity to engage in both telecommunications and broadcasting, either through the airwaves or by cable; (k) Ownership of public telecommunications entities to as

Best Practices Version 1.2 GOVERNMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING

GOVERNMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR PROTECTING AND PROMOTING RESILIENCE OF SUBMARINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CABLES With these Best Practices, the International Cable

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Undersea Cable Protection: International Law and Protocols

Understand the critical engineering, complex international laws, and rapid response protocols that safeguard the world's most vital digital infrastructure.

ASEAN Academic reports on submarine cables

Forward On Friday 3 May 2024, the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) and the Centre for International Law (CIL) of the National University of Singapore (NUS) organized a one-day Workshop

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Recommendations on

PREFACE The Telecommunications Act, 2023, aiming to amend and consolidate the law relating to development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and telecommunication

R E P O R T

Section 1. Short title This Act may be cited as the "Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025." Section 2. Prohibition on prohibiting, or requiring permits or other authorizations for, undersea fiber optic cables

Submarine Communications Cables and Law of the

Abstract Submarine communications cables laid on the seabed of the ocean are the foundation of the world's international telecommunications

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